

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: May 9, 2006
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Update on WSP Aircraft Assist with Capture of Eluding Suspect

After further investigation, it appears that at some point during the pursuit, two rounds were fired from the suspect's vehicle at the pursuing trooper. One of the rounds may have struck the troopers vehicle. During the arrest of the suspect, a loaded handgun was found on his person. "The troopers involved did an outstanding job", stated Captain Jim Lever. "This was a successful outcome to a dangerous situation." The State Patrol Crime Lab will be assisting in the investigation.

Original release:

A 20 year old male was taken into custody after attempting to elude a state trooper.

The suspect had been north bound on I-5 approaching Mount Vernon. A state patrol aircraft was in the area working speed emphasis with local troopers. The aircraft clocked the suspect vehicle at over 80 mph and advised the troopers. When a trooper attempted to stop the suspect vehicle, the vehicle took off and accelerated to speeds over 100mph in an attempt to elude the trooper. The aircraft and trooper on the ground determined the pursuit was unsafe to the public and discontinued the pursuit. The aircraft continued to keep the suspect's vehicle in sight and was able to follow the vehicle as it exited into Mount Vernon. The suspect abandoned the vehicle and fled on foot. The aircraft was able to lead the troopers to the suspect's location. The suspect was apprehended and booked into the Skagit County Jail

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